SECRET EMPIRE™

NICK SPENCER, ANDREA SORRENTINO, ROD REIS, JOSHUA CASSARA

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AND SO, AS YOU CAN SEE, WE ARE PREPARED TO OFFER VERY GENEROUS TERMS MOVING FORWARD--

--PROVIDED YOU PLEDGE YOUR LOYALTY TO ME WITHOUT QUESTION. WITH THAT UNDERSTOOD--

AH, EXCUSE ME, MA'AM--

I SEE-- MY APOLOGIES, GENTLEMEN...

"...THERE IS SOME URGENT STATE BUSINESS I MUST ATTEND TO."

SHE WAS APPREHENDED JUST A FEW MILES AWAY. GOT INTO A FIREFIGHT WITH SOME OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES TRYING TO STEAL A HYDRA TRANSPORT SHIP--

WONDERFUL. IMAGINE HOW PLEASED THE SUPREME LEADER WILL BE--

--TO SEE THE *BLACK WIDOW* IN *CHAINS.*

VIPER. IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME.

HM, INDEED IT HAS, NATASHA. BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THE MEMORY FADES. MY JAW STILL CLICKS. SHOULD I EXPECT THE SAME DEFIANCE ***THIS*** TIME?

NO--

--I'LL TELL YOU WHATEVER YOU WANT TO KNOW.

THIS THE PLACE, VIV?

THESE ARE THE COORDINATES.

IT IS HEAVILY FORTIFIED--THIS WILL NOT BE EASY.

IT NEVER IS, NADIA. BUT REMEMBER, EVERYBODY--

--THIS IS A ***RESCUE*** MISSION, NOT AN ***ATTACK.*** IN AND OUT. QUIETLY.

YEAH. DON'T FORGET TO MUTE YOUR PHONE, SPIDEY.

ONE TIME. THAT WAS ***ONE TIME.***

WHAT WERE YOU DOING WHEN WE CAUGHT YOU?!

PFFT--I TOLD YOU I WOULD COOPERATE...

THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE DON'T GET TO PUNCH YOU. NOW, THE QUESTION--

YOU ALREADY KNOW--

--TRYING TO STEAL A HYDRA TRANSPORT SHIP FOR A PLANNED OPERATION.

HM. AND WHO WERE YOU PLANNING THIS OPERATION WITH?

"CHILDREN, MOSTLY. I CAN GIVE YOU THEIR NAMES."

I SEE. AND WHAT WAS THE *OBJECTIVE* OF THIS OPERATION?

OH, THAT'S MY FAVORITE PART...

...WE ARE GOING TO *KILL* CAPTAIN AMERICA.

YOU INSOLENT--!

WAIT!

SOMETHING IS WRONG HERE.

WHY ARE YOU TELLING US ALL THIS?

BECAUSE, VIPER--

"--WHAT I AM DOING HERE SHOULD NOT BE YOUR CONCERN."

IT'S WHAT *YOU* ARE DOING HERE THAT I'D WORRY ABOUT, IF I WERE YOU. WITH THE OLD MEN IN SUITS AND THEIR BRIEFCASES OF MONEY.

WHAT WOULD YOUR SUPREME LEADER SAY IF HE FOUND OUT YOU WERE RUNNING THIS ILLEGAL AND UNSANCTIONED NARCOTICS ENTERPRISE RIGHT UNDER HIS NOSE?

YOU'RE PROFITING OFF HIS REGIME AT AN *AWFULLY* TIDY MARGIN. I IMAGINE HE'D WANT TO MAKE AN *ESPECIALLY* VIOLENT EXAMPLE OUT OF YOU, YES?

I'VE TAKEN CERTAIN PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES, WAYS TO ENSURE HE'LL BE BROUGHT UP TO SPEED IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO ME. OR, ALTERNATIVELY--

--YOU COULD *HELP* US. NOT ONLY WOULD YOU BE SPARED STEVE ROGERS' WRATH, BUT IF WE WERE TO SUCCEED...

...WELL, *SOMEONE* WOULD HAVE TO LEAD THIS REMARKABLY RESURGENT HYDRA IN THE EVENT OF HIS DEATH. WHO BETTER THAN THE *TRUE* MADAME HYDRA?

WHAT DO YOU SAY, OPHELIA?

ONE MOMENT--

"--WHAT DO YOU NEED ME FROM ME, THEN?"

JUST SENT YOU THE ACCESS CODE AND HAND SCAN, IRONHEART--

WAY AHEAD OF YOU NAT.

SHE TELL YOU WHO THIS DUDE IS?

NOPE. JUST SAID HE WAS IMPORTANT. THAT HE'D BE THE ONE--

--WHO WOULD WIN US THE WAR.

H-HELP ME...

UH, NAT-- I THINK WE GOT THE WRONG ROOM OR SOMETHING-- THIS AIN'T OUR GUY...

OH, IT'S HIM, FALCON. TRUST ME.

NOW-- ABOUT THAT TRANSPORT SHIP...

SECRET EMPIRE

Steve Rogers, A.K.A. Captain America, has claimed the United States for Hydra. The handful of heroes who escaped his initial attack discovered that a Cosmic Cube was behind Rogers' sinister change of heart, and might be able to change him back--if the scattered pieces can be reunited.

Tony Stark's team has now acquired two cube shards using a detection device Stark invented, but Captain America is hot on their trail--and intends to use the restored cube to rewrite the world in Hydra's image.

Meanwhile, Emma Frost is using her own cube shard to rule the mutant homeland of New Tian from the shadows--and Black Widow and her team of young heroes are closing in on Steve Rogers.

Writer ▪ Nick Spencer Artist ▪ Andrea Sorrentino

Additional Art ▪ Rod Reis; Joshua Cassara & Rachelle Rosenberg

Letterer ▪ VC's Travis Lanham

Recap Page Art ▪ Andrea Sorrentino

Cover ▪ Mark Brooks

Variant Covers ▪ John Tyler Christopher; Dan Mora & Edgar Delgado; Andrea Sorrentino

---

Production Design ▪ Carlos Lao Assistant Editor ▪ Alanna Smith

Editor ▪ Tom Brevoort Editor in Chief ▪ Axel Alonso

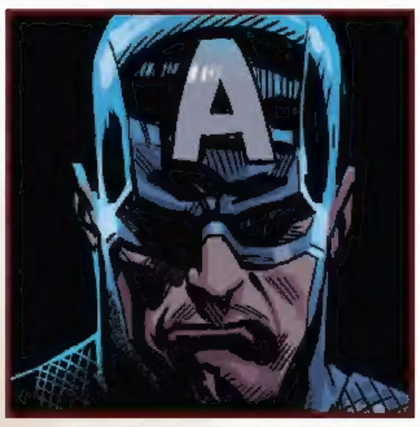
Chief Creative Officer ▪ Joe Quesada President ▪ Dan Buckley

Executive Producer ▪ Alan Fine

© 2017 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. WWW.MARVEL.COM

Hydra

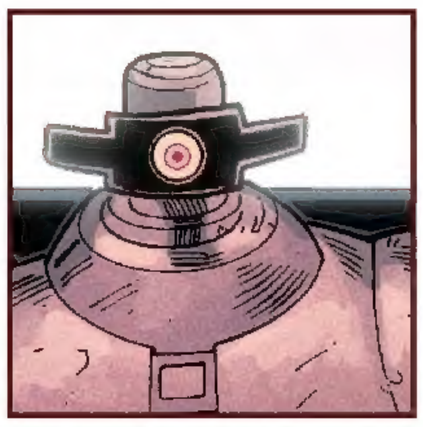
Hydra Command



Captain America

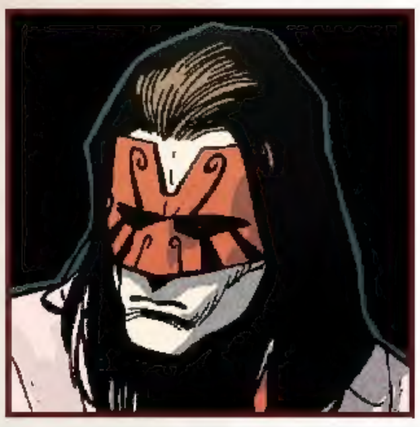
Kraken

Madame Hydra



Arnim Zola

Viper



Gorgon

Hive

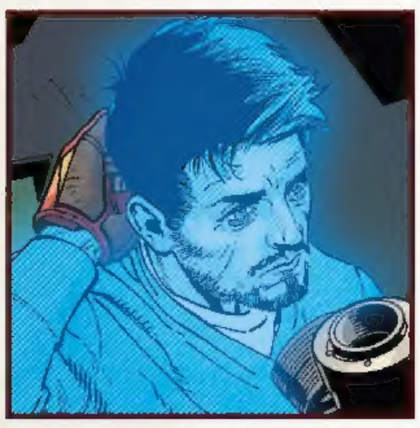
Avengers

Scarlet Witch

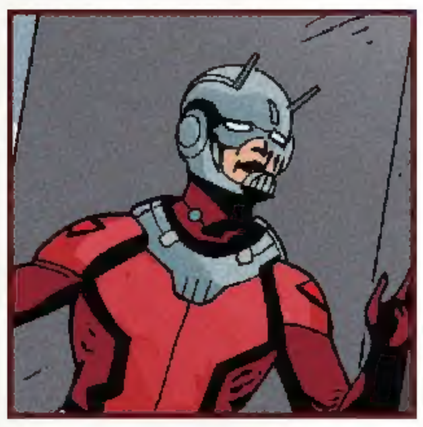
Odinson

Vision

The Underground



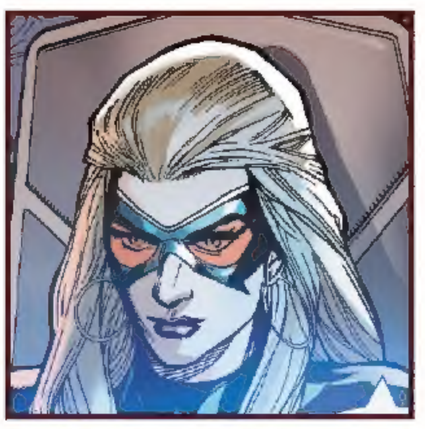
Tony Stark (A.I.)



Ant-Man

Hercules

Quicksilver



Mockingbird

Sam Wilson

Rayshaun Lucas

Giant-Man

Hawkeye

The Red Room

Black Widow

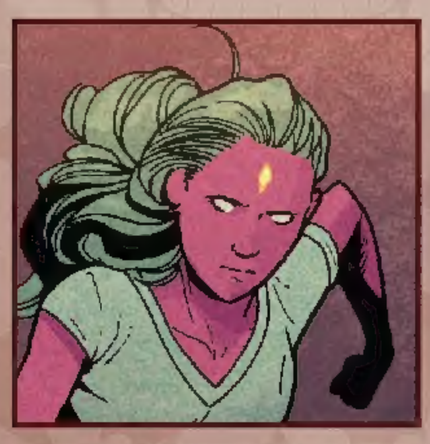
Wasp

Spider-Man

Wakanda

Black Panther

New Tian



Viv Vision

Ironheart

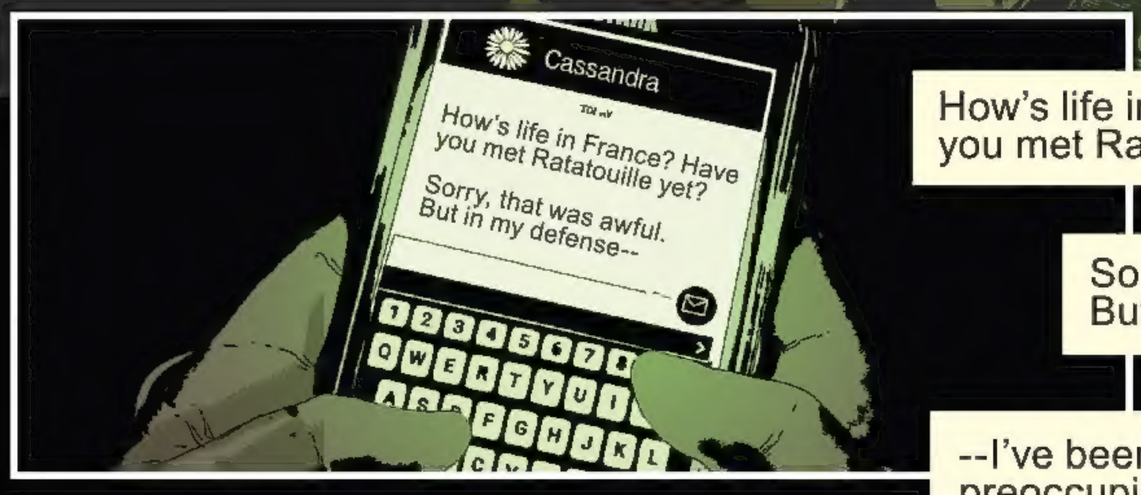
Falcon

Beast

WITH ALL WE'D LOST, THIS IS WHAT WE CLUNG TO. WHAT WE HAD LEFT.
THE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP, OF BROTHERHOOD.
THE KNOWLEDGE THAT, EVEN IN OUR SUFFERING, WE WERE NOT ALONE.
THAT BROUGHT US SOMETHING WE HAD NOT KNOWN IN SO LONG...
PEACE.
IN OUR DARKEST HOUR, THIS IS WHAT KEPT US ALIVE--

--FAMILY.

Dear Cassie...

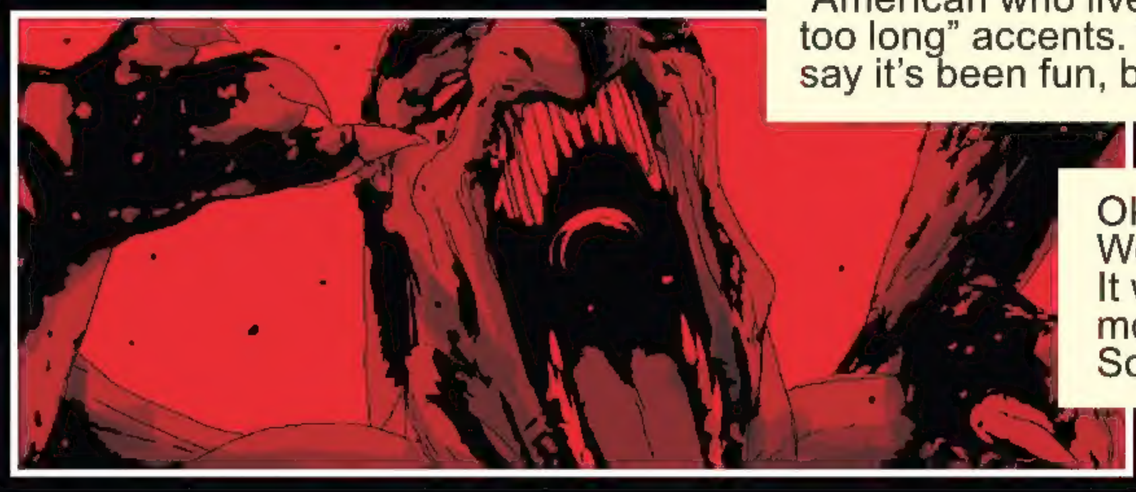


How's life in France? Have you met Ratatouille yet?

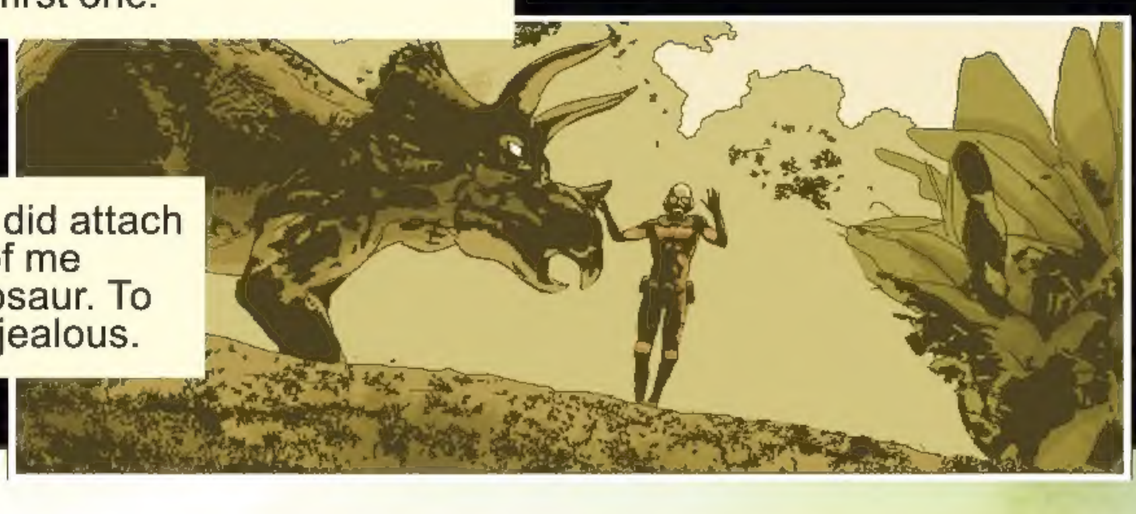
Sorry, that was awful. But in my defense--

--I've been a little too preoccupied to come up with solid new material.

Your dad is still out here hunting down these Cosmic Cube fragments so that you can come home before you pick up one of those annoying "American who lived in Europe too long" accents. Wish I could say it's been fun, but--



Okay, it has been kinda fun. We got to go to the Savage Land! It was like being in a Jurassic Park movie! One of the good ones! So, the first one.



And yes, I did attach a picture of me with a dinosaur. To make you jealous.

Our next stop is pretty awesome, too--the nation of Wakanda--

--where the Black Panther apparently has the next MacGuffin slice. So, finally, someone who will just give us the damn thing without some big super hero fight--

NO.

"NO"? WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "NO"?

I AM TELLING YOU THE SAME THING I TOLD THE CAPTAIN.

THE FRAGMENT CAME TO **US.** TO **WAKANDA.** AND SO IT BELONGS TO US. AND ONLY US.

UH, T'CHALLA-- I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'VE NOTICED, BUT "THE CAPTAIN"? HE'S A LITTLE **DIFFERENT** THESE DAYS. I'M TRYING TO **HELP** YOU--

WAKANDA HAS HAD MANY VISITORS OVER THE CENTURIES WHO PROMISE HELP, WHO TOLD US THEY ARE BETTER THAN THE ONES WHO CAME BEFORE.

BETTER?! THIS IS **HYDRA** WE'RE TALKING ABOUT!

I AM WELL AWARE OF THE NAME OF THE FORCES RAIDING OUR LANDS--

THEN YOU KNOW WE NEED THIS TO END. AND I NEED **ALL** THE FRAGMENTS FOR THIS TO WORK-- TO HAVE **ANY** CHANCE. I'M TELLING YOU, I CAN **FIX** THIS!

I HAVE WATCHED YOU TRY TO FIX THINGS BEFORE, TONY--

--AND WHEN I CLOSE MY EYES, I CAN STILL SEE THE DEATH AND DESTRUCTION.

THEY'RE NOT GOING TO STOP COMING, YOU KNOW--

OF THAT, I HAVE NO DOUBT. AND EACH TIME, WE WILL TURN THEM AWAY.

UNTIL THE TIME YOU CAN'T.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN IT ISN'T JUST **ARNIM ZOLA?** WHEN STEVE BRINGS HIS WHOLE DAMN **ARMY** DOWN ON YOU?

THINK OF YOUR PEOPLE--I CAN MAKE THESE ATTACKS **GO AWAY**--

AND WITH THE POWER OF THE CUBE, PERHAPS BRING US SOMETHING WORSE. I WILL MAKE YOU A COUNTEROFFER, TONY.

CONTINUE ON YOUR JOURNEY. FIND THE OTHER FRAGMENTS--

--THEN BRING THEM BACK HERE, AND SURRENDER THEM TO WAKANDA. THAT SHOULD EVEN SEEM **PRUDENT**--

"--IF YOUR OWN DESIRES AREN'T THE ISSUE."

I dunno what it is--

--but that's just how our luck's been going these days.

We started out strong, but now, for some reason--

--we keep coming up empty.

Over and over, we're running into dead ends--

--and the people we meet while we're there are not getting any nicer.

MADRIPOOR.

TOO MANY OF THESE DAMN THINGS--

HIVE'S CONTROLLING THEM-- TAKE HIM OUT, AND THIS SHOULD GET A LOT EASIER.

I'VE GOT A SHOT.

SSSCHK!

THEY ALL FALL DOWN.

EXCEPT GORGON--

NEVER FEAR--

--GORGON IS *MINE.*

NO-- HERC, YOU'RE ALREADY *HURT--*

IT IS NOTHING I HAVE NOT FELT BEFORE, MOCKINGBIRD--

PLEASE SAY "'TIS ONLY A FLESH WOUND." PLEASE SAY "'TIS ONLY A FLESH WOUND."

THE MIGHTY *HERCULES.* IT IS AN HONOR. BUT YOU MUST KNOW--

--I HAVE KILLED GODS *BEFORE.* AND I FOUND IT... *ENLIGHTENING.*

PHOBOS WAS BUT A BOY WHEN YOU SLAYED HIM, TYRANT--

NO...

--NOW YOU FACE A MAN!!!

HERC!

HRR--

I GOT HIM.

AND I'LL GET THE GUY WE CAME HERE FOR--THE PROUD OWNER OF ONE COSMIC CUBE FRAGMENT--

SHANG-CHI.

I DON'T HAVE IT.

SORRY?

BUT TONY--YOUR DOOHICKEY SAID--

UH...

I'LL TELL YOU THE SAME THING I TOLD HYDRA WHEN THEY TORTURED ME--

--I *HAD* ONE, YES. BUT IT WAS TAKEN FROM ME.

BY WHO?

WHITE QUEEN TO BASE-- PACKAGE SECURE.

I--I CAN'T *REMEMBER.*

YOU MUST *JOKING--*

"OUR" TIME-- WHERE THE HELL WERE *YOU, QUICKSILVER?!*

ANOTHER WASTE OF OUR TIME?

LOOKING FOR MY *SISTER.* I'M NOT HERE FOR YOUR LITTLE WAR--

ENOUGH!

WE NEED TO CALL THIS.

NO, TONY. WHATEVER YOUR TECH IS SUPPOSED TO BE DOING--IT'S NOT *WORKING* ANYMORE. HASN'T FOR *WEEKS.*

SAM--

THAT'S NOT TRUE. MAYBE THIS WAS JUST... RESIDUE GETTING PICKED UP...

AND WUNDAGORE? *BAGALIA?* ANY OF THE *OTHER* SIX SITES YOU'VE HAD US CHECK OUT THAT LEFT US AT A DEAD END? THIS ISN'T WHAT I SIGNED UP FOR IN THE FIRST PLACE--

HE'S RIGHT, STARK--

--THIS IS THE BLIND LEADING THE BLIND.

BOBBI-- TELL THESE GUYS--

YOU KNOW I WAS ALL FOR CARRYING ON, TONY, BUT LOOK AT *HERC.*

HE *NEEDS* MEDICAL CARE. THE KIND HE CAN ONLY GET BACK AT THE MOUNT.

N-NO--I CAN CARRY ON--

NOT TO MENTION--WE DO HAVE TWO FRAGMENTS THAT WE'RE JUST-- KEEPING IN CHECKED LUGGAGE. ONE OF THESE FIGHTS WITH HYDRA GOES SOUTH, AND WE LOSE THEM--

UNBELIEVABLE. SCOTT?

I DUNNO, TONY-- MAYBE WE COULD REGROUP, RUN SOME TESTS ON THE ONES WE HAVE--TRY AGAIN ONCE HERC IS HEALED UP?

FINE. YOU WANT TO THROW IN THE TOWEL? I CAN'T STOP YOU. BUT REMEMBER, YOU'RE NOT JUST GIVING UP ON A MISSION--

--YOU'RE GIVING UP ON *HIM.*

WELL, WHATEVER YOU PEOPLE DECIDE TO DO--

--CAN I GET A RIDE?

WASHINGTON, D.C.

I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED WHY YOU JUST LEFT IT SITTING HERE.

SEEMS LIKE IT'S SOMETHING *I'D* KEEP CLOSE BY.

THE INSCRIPTION SAYS "WHOSOEVER." IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO BE *TESTED*, THEY'RE WELCOME TO *TRY*.

SUPREME LEADER.

AMBASSADOR McCOY. HOW ARE THE DAYS IN NEW TIAN?

MUTANTS HAVE A HOMELAND. THEY ARE NOT RULED, THEY RULE THEMSELVES. THAT'S A MOMENT I NEVER DREAMT I'D SEE.

AND YET, IT'S NOT ALL GOOD NEWS, IS IT?

THE BORDER DISPUTES, THE REFUGEES--THE TERROR ATTACKS.

NO SYSTEM IS PERFECT.

I DISAGREE. BUT THAT'S NOT WHY I CALLED YOU HERE, HANK. I'VE GOTTEN A VERY TROUBLING REPORT FROM KRAKEN...

"...HE SAYS YOU HAVE SOMETHING THAT BELONGS TO ME."

I--I'M NOT SURE I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU MEAN--

I SUSPECT YOU DO. YOU KNOW--THERE ARE OTHER REASONS TO KEEP THE HAMMER RESTING HERE.

WHEN KINGS MOUNTED THEIR SWORDS ABOVE THEIR THRONES, IT WASN'T TO MAKE EVERYONE WHO CAME BEFORE THEM THINK THEY'D USE THEM--

--IT WAS TO REMIND THEM THAT THEY ONCE ***DID.***

I'VE FELT MJOLNIR'S FURY. WIELDED IT. I TRIED TO DO SO...***RESPONSIBLY,*** BUT I CAN TELL YOU THE PULL OF IT--WHAT IT'S CAPABLE OF DOING. WHAT IT COULD RAIN DOWN ON A PLACE LIKE ***NEW TIAN--***

--IF I JUST PICKED IT UP ONE MORE TIME.

ARE YOU--IS ***THAT*** WHY YOU BROUGHT ME HERE? TO ***INTIMIDATE*** ME?

NO. TO REMIND YOU OF YOUR ***COMPASSION.*** TO SPARE YOUR PEOPLE THAT ***DESTRUCTION.***

SUPREME LEADER--

--YOUR SHIP IS ARRIVING, SIR.

GOOD. AMBASSADOR--I TRUST I'LL BE HEARING FROM YOU SOON.

MUST BE DIFFICULT, I'D IMAGINE--

--CONSTANTLY RESISTING THE URGE TO PICK IT UP AND ***PLAY GOD.***

HARDLY.

I DON'T NEED THE ***HAMMER*** FOR THAT, HANK.

THAT SEEMS TO HAVE GONE WELL.

SO THIS IS IT, THEN. IT'S REALLY HAPPENING.

IF OUR CONTACT IS TO BE BELIEVED, YES--IS OUR TEAM READY, ELISA?

ASSUREDLY--

"--THE SCARLET WITCH REMAINS IN CHTHON'S THRALL.

"THE ELDER GOD CAN ONLY HARNESS A PORTION OF HER POWER, BUT IT'S CONSIDERABLE NONETHELESS--

"THERE HAVE, HOWEVER, BEEN SOME ISSUES WITH HER PERSONAL STAFF.

"ARNIM ZOLA ASSURES ME THAT THE A.I. VIRUS INFECTING THE VISION HAS HIM COMPLETELY UNDER OUR CONTROL--

"--WITH ONLY THE OCCASIONAL HICCUP, I'M HAPPY TO REPORT."

VIV! TONY! I MUST GET A DISTRESS SIGNAL OUT-- WHAT ARE YOU-- KZZZIT--

BOTH WILL BE READY WHEN CALLED UPON TODAY.

GOOD. AND WHAT ABOUT ODINSON?

HM-- YES...

"--HE'S PROVING TO BE A BIT MORE *COMPLICATED.*"

FATHER, PLEASE--HELP ME UNDERSTAND WHAT I AM TO DO.

MIDGARD'S POLITICS HAVE ALWAYS CONFOUNDED ME. I HAVE SEEN KINGS AND EMPIRES RISE AND FALL TOO MANY TIMES TO CARE.

AND IN ALL THAT TIME, NO MORTAL HAS EARNED MY TRUST IN THE MANNER THAT STEVE ROGERS HAS.

BUT I HAVE SEEN THINGS HERE--THINGS THAT *TROUBLE* ME...

THE *INNOCENT* BEING *PERSECUTED.* EVIL GAINING. FEAR TAKING HOLD.

THEY TELL ME ONLY THEY CAN SAVE *JANE FOSTER* FROM THE PUGATORY WHERE SHE NOW RESIDES. ONLY THEY CAN RESTORE THIS REALM'S CONNECTION TO ASGARD.

I SENSE THE *LIE* IN THIS--BUT--

--HE WIELDED *MJOLNIR.* HE WAS PROVEN *WORTHY,* EVEN WHEN I AM...NOT.

I--I DON'T UNDERSTAND, FATHER. HELP ME--BECAUSE WHAT THEY ASK ME TO DO NOW--

—IS SOMETHING TERRIBLE.

I'VE TRIED MANY ENCHANTMENTS. FAUSTUS HAS TRIED TO SUBVERT HIM. BUT EVEN WITHOUT THE HAMMER, HE IS STILL A *GOD*. HE IS *TOO STRONG*.

HE LISTENS TO *ME*. I'LL TALK TO HIM. BUT FOR NOW--

--I'M NEEDED ON DECK.

NO, STEVEN, WAIT--

IS EVERYTHING--

NO, IT'S JUST--THIS IS SOMETHING OF A *MOMENT*, ISN'T IT? TODAY YOU'RE MAKING A REAL STEP TOWARD ENDING ALL THIS--AFTER ALL THIS TIME. I JUST KEEP THINKING BACK TO THAT LITTLE BOY I FOUND IN THE SLUMS, AND WELL, I--

--I JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU HOW *PROUD* I AM OF YOU, MY DEAR BOY. AND THAT--I KNOW I COULD NEVER REPLACE YOUR MOTHER--

ELISA...

NO, LET ME FINISH, STEVEN. I KNOW I COULD NEVER REPLACE YOUR MOTHER--

--BUT YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A *SON* TO ME.

NOW GO.

"RECLAIM WHAT WAS STOLEN...

"...RESTORE WHAT WAS LOST..."

So yeah--
we lost.

The whole way back, we barely said a word to each other...

...but everyone knew this was the end.

You try to do what you can, Cassie. But sometimes you come up short.

THE MOUNT.

What matters is that, at some point, you try again.

We've all been through so much. Made some big sacrifices and took some heavy hits.

And I gotta admit, after all that, it really did feel good--

--to come home.

To see some familiar faces...

...to be reunited with those we love.

Yeah, it's good to be back...

...well, mostly.

TWO?! *TWO?!* I THOUGHT YOU SAID THERE WERE *EIGHT OR NINE* OF THESE THINGS?

YEAH, THAT'S WHY WE CALL THE MISSION *UNSUCCESSFUL.*

BUT HEY, IT'S NOT ALL BAD. NOW THAT WE HAVE A COUPLE, WE CAN RUN SOME--

HE DOESN'T *NEED* THE GLASS-HALF-FULL SPEECH, SCOTT...

MAYBE I DON'T--BUT THE FOLKS HERE...*THEY* SURE AS HELL DID. SINCE VEGAS, THESE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN WALKING AROUND LIKE *ZOMBIES--*

"--THIS WAS THE ONLY HOPE THEY HAD."

AND THEY JUST LOST IT.

YEAH, WELL, THEY'RE NOT THE *ONLY* ONES WHO LOST SOMETHING. I'M GONNA GO CHECK ON HERC.

SOMEONE SHOULD TALK TO TONY--

"--HE'S NOT DOING SO GREAT, EITHER."

SHAUN, HAND ME THAT THING.

UHH, RAZ, WHICH--
TONY!

TONY--YOU--YOU'RE *BACK!*

I AM. AND YOU HAVE MESSED UP ALL MY PILES.

PROJECT?

SORRY--WE NEEDED THE ROOM FOR RAZ'S PROJECT.

YOU ARE GONNA LOVE THIS--IT'S A *TIME CAPSULE.*

LIKE THE THINGS YOU PUT BEANIE BABIES IN?

KINDA. SEE, I WAS TRYING TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO GET A MESSAGE OUT PAST THE DEFENSE SHIELD, OR INTO THE DARKFORCE. THEORETICALLY THIS *COULD* WORK.

IT'S ADAMANTIUM ALLOY, VIRTUALLY INDESTRUCTIBLE. AND ONCE WE'VE RECORDED A MESSAGE, IT BURROWS DEEP DOWN INTO THE GROUND. AND IT WAITS--I SET IT FOR A LITTLE OVER A HUNDRED YEARS. FIGURE HYDRA'S REIGN HAS GOTTA BE OVER BY *THEN,* RIGHT?

YOU'RE QUITE THE OPTIMIST.

ANYWAY, AT THAT POINT, IT SHOULD BE ABLE TO OPEN PORTALS, RIGHT? SEEING AS THERE'S NO SHIELD. AND SO I'M PROGRAMMING IT TO SEND MESSAGES BACK THROUGH TIME, TO SOME PRE-SET COORDINATES--

OUTSIDE THE SHIELD AND INSIDE THE DARK. BEFORE THEY GO UP. THAT'S GOOD, RAZ. BUT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT SENDING SOMETHING--EVEN IF IT'S JUST INFORMATION--BACK THROUGH THE TIMESTREAM.

NO OFFENSE, BUT THAT'S *REED RICHARDS* STUFF. NOT REALLY YOUR DEPARTMENT.

NO, YOU'RE RIGHT, IT ISN'T--SO I CREATED AN A.I. THAT FIGURED IT ALL OUT FOR ME.

OKAY, YOU KNOW, I *JUST* HAD DINNER WITH ULTRON, AND YOU REALLY SHOULD BE CAREFUL WITH--

WHAT ABOUT *YOU?*

DID YOU GET THE CUBE FRAGMENTS?
NOT ENOUGH OF THEM.
SO-- THAT'S IT, RIGHT? IT'S OVER...
TONY?
DID YOU TELL THEM THE TRUTH?
WAIT-- *WHAT* TRUTH?
THAT HE NEVER FIGURED OUT HOW TO TRACK THE CUBE FRAGMENTS.
THIS IS MOCKINGBIRD. WE'RE BACK AT BASE. WE ONLY GOT THE TWO FRAGMENTS...
SO-- HOW DID YOU KNOW WHERE SOME OF THEM WERE?
RICK SENT US HYDRA INTEL, THEIR BEST LEADS.
MOST WERE DEAD ENDS, THOUGH.
BUT THE DETECTOR YOU BUILT--
PROCEED WITH THE OPERATION.
ENGAGE.
*THEY NEEDED **HOPE.***
SO THAT'S WHAT I BUILT.
BUT--IF HYDRA KNEW WHERE THESE WERE, WHY DIDN'T THEY GO GET THEM THEMSELVES?
BELIEVE ME, THEY WERE TRYING.
GUESS THEY JUST DIDN'T HAVE *YOU,* RIGHT?
TURN ON THE SHIELDS! TURN ON THE SHIELDS!
HUH?
SOMETHING LIKE--
OH, GOD.
*DO IT-- **NOW--***

OH MY GOD...

OPEN FIRE.

IF OUR INTELLIGENCE IS CORRECT, EVEN THESE BLASTS WON'T BE ENOUGH TO BRING DOWN THEIR DEFENSES.

NO, YOU'RE RIGHT. BUT WE HAVE SOMETHING STRONGER THAN THAT, DON'T WE?

LET'S GO CHECK IN ON OUR SECRET WEAPON.

SAW SOME TRACKS JUST UP HERE, LOOKED FRESH.

THANK *GOD.* IF I HAVE ANY MORE OF THIS GUY'S FISH--

HA, AND HERE I REMEMBER YOU HAVING NO PROBLEM EATING MORE THAN YOUR SHARE--

YEAH, WELL, IT WAS A PRETTY SMALL SHARE.

LET'S JUST HOPE YOU *HUNT* BETTER THAN YOU *FISH,* OLD MAN. OR ELSE--

HEY, DO YOU GUYS SEE THAT?

SEE WHAT?

WAIT--

CLACK!

HSOOO

THE RED SKULL IS GOING TO FREE YOU FROM THIS PLACE, HERR ROGERS.

JUST THIS WAY, SUPREME LEADER--

AND HE'S AWAKE? COGENT?

OH, YES--A BIT DISORIENTED, BUT HE HAS HIS WITS ABOUT HIM.

YOU SHOULD KNOW, HOWEVER--THE PROCEDURE...IT'S ONLY TEMPORARY. HIS CONDITION WILL DEGRADE QUITE QUICKLY.

THAT'S FINE. I ONLY NEED HIM FOR A SHORT TIME--

--JUST LONG ENOUGH TO END THIS.

...STEVE?

BRUCE BANNER.

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, OLD FRIEND.

TO BE CONTINUED!

Secret Empire

June

Secret Empire: Brave New World #1 & #2

The Invaders return...and a new Patriot is born!

Captain America: Steve Rogers #18

Will Namor and Black Panther kneel before Hydra?

Captain America: Sam Wilson #23

Sam leads Tony Stark's team on a daring escape from the U.S.!

Beyond the Shield

Guardians Annual #1

The Guardians search for a weapon that can turn the tide against the Chitauri!

The Mighty Captain Marvel #6

The battle against the Chitauri rages on, but Captain Marvel's forces are running out of hope.

Deadpool #32

Captain America wouldn't steer Deadpool wrong... right?

Secret Empire

June

Secret Warriors #3

How far will Ms. Marvel go to protect Inhumans from Hydra?

U.S.Avengers #7

Avengers of Europe, assemble!

Occupy Avengers #8

Hawkeye's champions of the people make one last stand against Hydra.

Darkforce New York

Doctor Strange #22

Doctor Strange finds an unlikely ally in the fight against the Darkforce: Wilson Fisk.

Uncanny Avengers #24

Tricked by their former leader and isolated in the Darkforce, the Unity Squad fights to survive.

Amazing Spider-Man #29

Superior Octopus is back-- and he's after Parker Industries!

SECRET EMPIRE

NEXT

CAN THE UNDERGROUND SURVIVE A DIRECT ATTACK FROM HYDRA, OR WILL A TRAITOR TAKE THEM DOWN FROM WITHIN?

SECRET EMPIRE: UNDERGROUND #1

THE HEROES OF THE UNDERGROUND RACE CAPTAIN AMERICA TO A COSMIC CUBE FRAGMENT IN THE SAVAGE LAND!

SECRET EMPIRE: UNITED #1

TENSIONS ARE RISING IN THE MUTANT HOMELAND OF NEW TIAN, AND STEVE ROGERS ISN'T HAPPY ABOUT IT.

ZONE